(*c*) if not, the name of the department or officer responsible for seeing that irrigation channels opened by Government are not blocked by some interested parties exclusively for their own use;

(*d*) whether Government would allow filling up of irrigation channels opened by them while they continue to be useful to the ryots; and

(*e*) if not, the name of the officer or department for seeing that irrigation chals are not rendered useless by getting filled up?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):*

(*a*) Both the P.W.D. and Revenue Departments.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) The Executive Officers of the P.W.D. and the Revenue Departments.

(*d*) No.

(*e*) The Executive Officers of the P.W.D. and the Revenue Departments.

KARINGOLE CHIRA BUND—BREACH IN

172. Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether there is leakage by percolation in the Karingole chira bund between Vadama and Puthen chira;

(*b*) whether Government have received any complaint from the public that the bund is not properly cemented underneath the surface;

(*c*) whether Government are aware that saline water percolates into the paddy fields through the bund and causes damage to the fields; and

(*d*) the date on which the Karingole chira sluice was opened at the out-break of the monsoon in the year 1116?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):*

(*a*) There is now water on both sides of the Karingole chira bund leaving only about 6 inches height of bund above the water. Hence it is not possible now to state whether there is leakage by percolation.

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(*b*) It is understood on enquiry that the people have submitted petitions to the Travancore Government. The work was executed by Travancore Government.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) The date is not known to this Government as the chira is maintained by the Travancore Government who have also appointed a watchman for the same.

METERS SUPPLIED TO ELECTRICITY USERS

173. Mr. A. Eachara Menon *(Chittur-Rural)* : Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) how many meters are supplied to the electricity users by Government ;

(*b*) what is the price of a meter ;

(*c*) what does the Government charge as hire per meter ;

(*d*) why should not the meters be sold to each user ;

(*e*) do meters go out of order often ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)* :

(*a*) Government have supplied 97 meters at Nemmara and 147 meters at Chittur.

(*b*) The price of a single-phase meter is about Rs. 16. A three-phase meter costs about Rs. 75.

(*c*) The rent for a single-phase house service meter is Rs. 0—4—0 per month.

(*d*) This can be done, if the house-owners want it. But then the responsibility for repairs and maintenance of the meter will be that of the house-owners.

(*e*) Being delicate instruments some meters go out of order soon, while it is seen that some last in good order for a long time.

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